

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01776 041446Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4113

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1776

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB. GE

SUBJECT: BRITISH MLM AND PATROL INCIDENTS

1. THREE-MAN BRITISH MILITARY LIAISON MISSION (BRIXMIS) TOUR OBSERVING FLYING PROGRAM AT FALKENBERG AIRFIELD IN GDR ON SEPTEMBER 27 WAS JUMPED AND OVERPOWERED BY TWELVE SOVIET AIRMEN AT APPROXIMATELY 1245 LOCAL. TOUR MEMBERS WERE PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED (ONE SUFFERED BROKEN COLLAR BONE), SEARCHED, TIED UP WITH BELTS, AND PUSHED INTO BACK OF SOVIET MILITARY TRUCK, WHERE THEY WERE HELD APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HOURS (ONE HOUR OF WHICH AT GUNPOINT AND WITH HANDS TIED). BRIXMIS VEHICLE WAS RANSACKED AND EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS CONFIS-
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01776 041446Z

CATED. TOUR WAS REPORTEDLY NEITHER IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED AREA

NOR BEHIND TEMPORARY RESTRICTION SIGNS WHEN APPREHENDED. AT APPROXIMATELY 2045 LOCAL TOUR MEMBERS WERE ESCORTED TO WITTENBERG KOMMANDATURA, WHERE THEY WERE ACCUSED OF PHOTOGRAPHING SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TAKING NOTES, AND--IN THE CASE OF ONE INJURED MEMBER--RESISTING APPREHENSION, ALL OF WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS "FORBIDDEN FOR MILITARY MISSIONS." TOUR WAS THEN RELEASED.

2. AT BRIXMIS REQUEST, CHIEF OF BRIXMIS MET WITH SERB OFFICERS SEPTEMBER 28 TO PROTEST INCIDENT. SERB OFFICERS ENTERED THEIR PROTEST FIRST, ACCUSING TOUR OF COMMITTING "FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS" OF ROBERTSON-MALININ AGREEMENT IN CAMOUFLAGING VEHICLE IN VICINITY OF SOVIET AIRFIELD AND THEN PHOTOGRAPHING AIRCRAFT. SOVIETS EXPRESSED EXPECTATION THAT BRIXMIS WOULD IN FUTURE RESPECT RULES FOR CONDUCT OF MILITARY MISSIONS. CHIEF OF BRIXMIS DENIED "ABSOLUTELY" THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY VIOLATION OF ROBERTSON-MALININ AGREEMENT, EMPHASIZED THAT TOUR HAD NOT BEEN IN RESTRICTED AREA, AND THEN PROTESTED "ILL-DISCIPLINED AND BRUTAL BEHAVIOR" OF SOVIET TROOPS. SUBSEQUENTLY, CHIEF OF BRIXMIS RECOMMENDED TO HIS AUTHORITIES THAT, IN VIEW OF SEVERITY OF INCIDENT, PROTEST BE MADE BY HQ BAOR TO CHIEF OF SOVIET LIAISON MISSION IN BUNDE. (PROTEST WAS MADE SEPTEMBER 29).

3. TWO BRITISH EAST BERLIN PATROLS WERE INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1. IN FIRST CASE, PATROL VEHICLE IN VICINITY OF TREPTOW PARK WAS OBSTRUCTED BY FOUR NVA VEHICLES FOR TOTAL OF 36 MINUTES. OCCUPANTS REQUESTED SOVIET OFFICER BUT NONE APPEARED. IN SECOND INCIDENT, PATROL SEEKING TO OBSERVE PARADE IN ALEXANDERPLATZ FROM PARKING LOT OF HOTEL STADT BERLIN WAS SUBJECTED TO HARASSMENT BY VOPOS AND NVA PERSONNEL FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS. DRIVER OF VEHICLE REFUSED TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS OF VOPOS TO LEAVE PARKING LOT (WHICH WAS BEING CLEARED OF ALL VEHICLES), AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BOXED IN BY THREE VEHICLES WHILE NVA TROOPS BLOCKED VIEW OF PARADE. OTHER MEMBERS OF PATROL WERE MANHANDLED, AND VEHICLE WAS DAMAGED IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01776 041446Z

COURSE OF MANEUVERING. BOTH INCIDENTS WERE PROTESTED TO SOVIETS IN PROTOCOL CHANNEL OCTOBER 2.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT WHETHER OCCURRENCE OF THREE INCIDENTS INVOLVING BRITISH PERSONNEL WITHIN SHORT SPACE OF TIME REPRESENTS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE. ALTHOUGH NOTHING CAN EXCUSE CRUDENESS AND BRUTALITY OF SOVIETS, DETENTION OF BRIXMIS TOUR WAS PROBABLY

RETALIATION FOR RECENT BRITISH ACTION AGAINST SOVIET
MILITARY MISSION TOUR IN FRG. READINESS OF BRIXMIS
OFFICERS (INCLUDING CHIEF) TO MIX AND JOKE WITH GSFG
OFFICERS (INCLUDING CHIEF OF STAFF) AT CZECH RECEPTION
IN WEST BERLIN OCTOBER 2 WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT
BRIXMIS IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED AT SEPTEMBER 27
INCIDENT. TWO INCIDENTS IN EAST BERLIN WERE POSSIBLY
CONNECTED WITH PREPARATIONS AND REHEARSALS FOR
OCTOBER 7 CELEBRATION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GDR,
I.E., WE UNDERSTAND HOTEL PARKING LOT WHERE OCTOBER 1
INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WAS BEING SET UP AT TIME AS BREAK
AREA FOR PARADE CONTINGENTS.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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